

FARTHING WOOD FRIENDS

28

Based on the series shown on **B B C** TV.



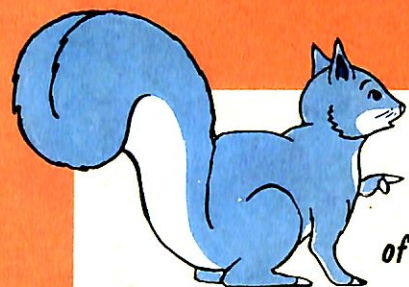
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Album
stickers

NATURE FUN AND LEARN SERIES

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Squirrel says,

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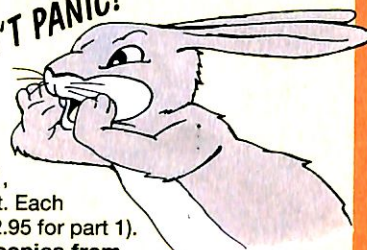
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FASCINATING FACTS Smell

COLOUR IT IN Hello ssstranger

ALSO

IN ISSUE 29 FARTHING WOOD FRIENDS

Play this board game and see how Farthing Wood was destroyed.

ALL ABOUT...Blue tits

Hop along to your nearest bird table for a look at these acrobatic creatures.

FASCINATING FACTS

Floppy ones, tufty ones, long ones? We're talking ears, of course!

DISCOVERING NATURE

Bang! Crackle! Pop! It's bonfire night!

CREDITS

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Dear Friends!

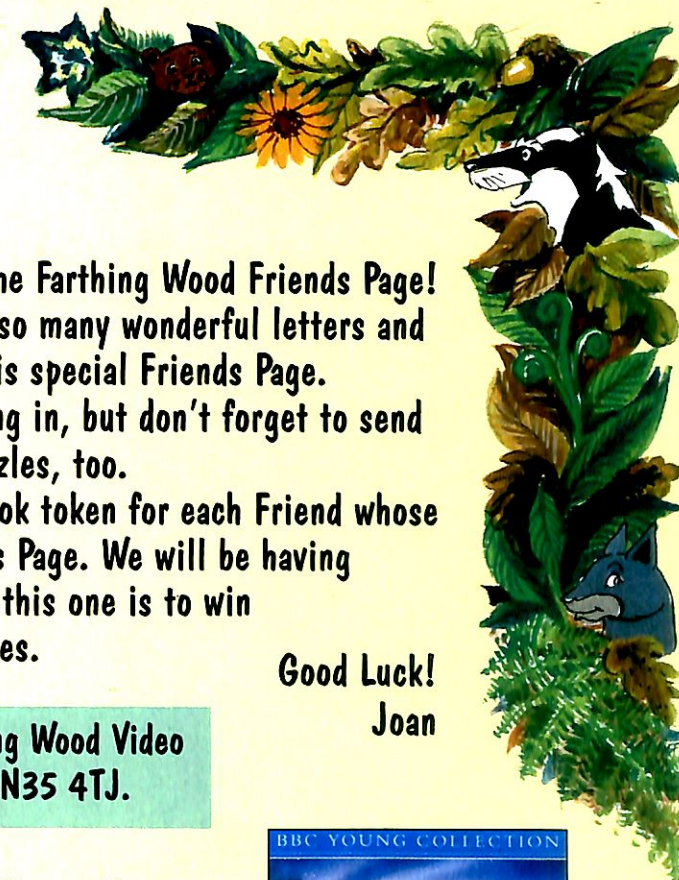
Welcome to the Farthing Wood Friends Page!
You've been sending us so many wonderful letters and pictures, that we've decided to have this special Friends Page.

Keep those letters and pictures coming in, but don't forget to send us your favourite jokes, poems and puzzles, too.

As a thank you, there will be a £5 book token for each Friend whose letter or picture appears on the Friends Page. We will be having competitions from time to time, too – this one is to win Farthing Wood videos and audio cassettes.

Send your competition entries to: Farthing Wood Video Competition, PO Box 95, Hastings TN35 4TJ.

Good Luck!
Joan



Competition!

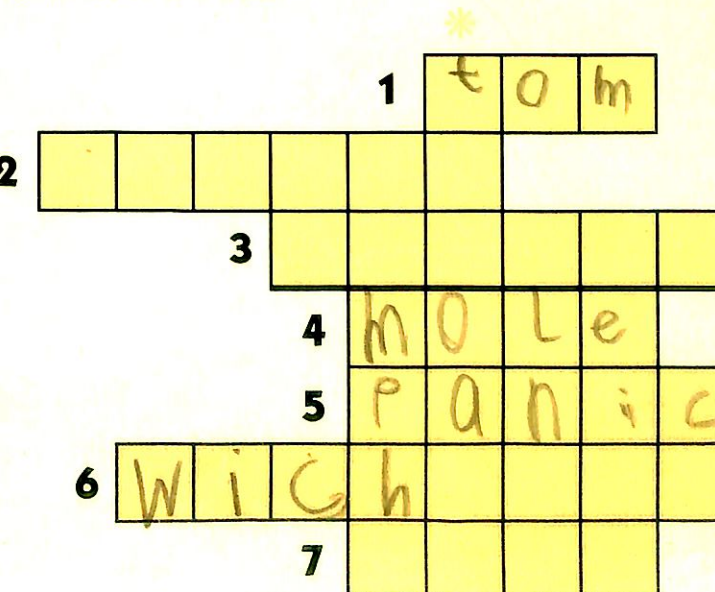
The BBC Animals of Farthing Wood videos are now on sale but you can win one free!

We have 10 Farthing Wood videos and 10 Farthing Wood audio cassettes to give away as prizes to the first 20 correct answers received by 11th November.

The animals all took this for the journey.
What am I thinking of?

Fill in the answers to these clues in the boxes.
The answer is in the column with the star.

- The name of the cat that Fox met.
- This bird gave Vixen some advice about finding a good mate.
- Kestrel's call.
- He cries when he's happy. He cries when he's sad.
- Mrs Rabbit is fond of saying 'Don't —'.
- Who rescues Adder from the drain?
- Pheasant was — by the farmer.



To enter the competition, write your answer on a postcard or on the back of a sealed envelope and send it to:
Farthing Wood Video Competition
PO Box 95
Hastings TN35 4TJ

Don't forget to include your name and address with your answer.

Competition rules

The competition is open to anyone aged 12 or under. The closing date for entries is 11th November 1994. The winners will be the first 20 correct answers chosen at random from all the entries received by the closing date. The judges decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. A list of the winners can be obtained one month after the closing date by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the competition address. There is no money alternative to the prize offered. For readers in the UK and Republic of Ireland only.

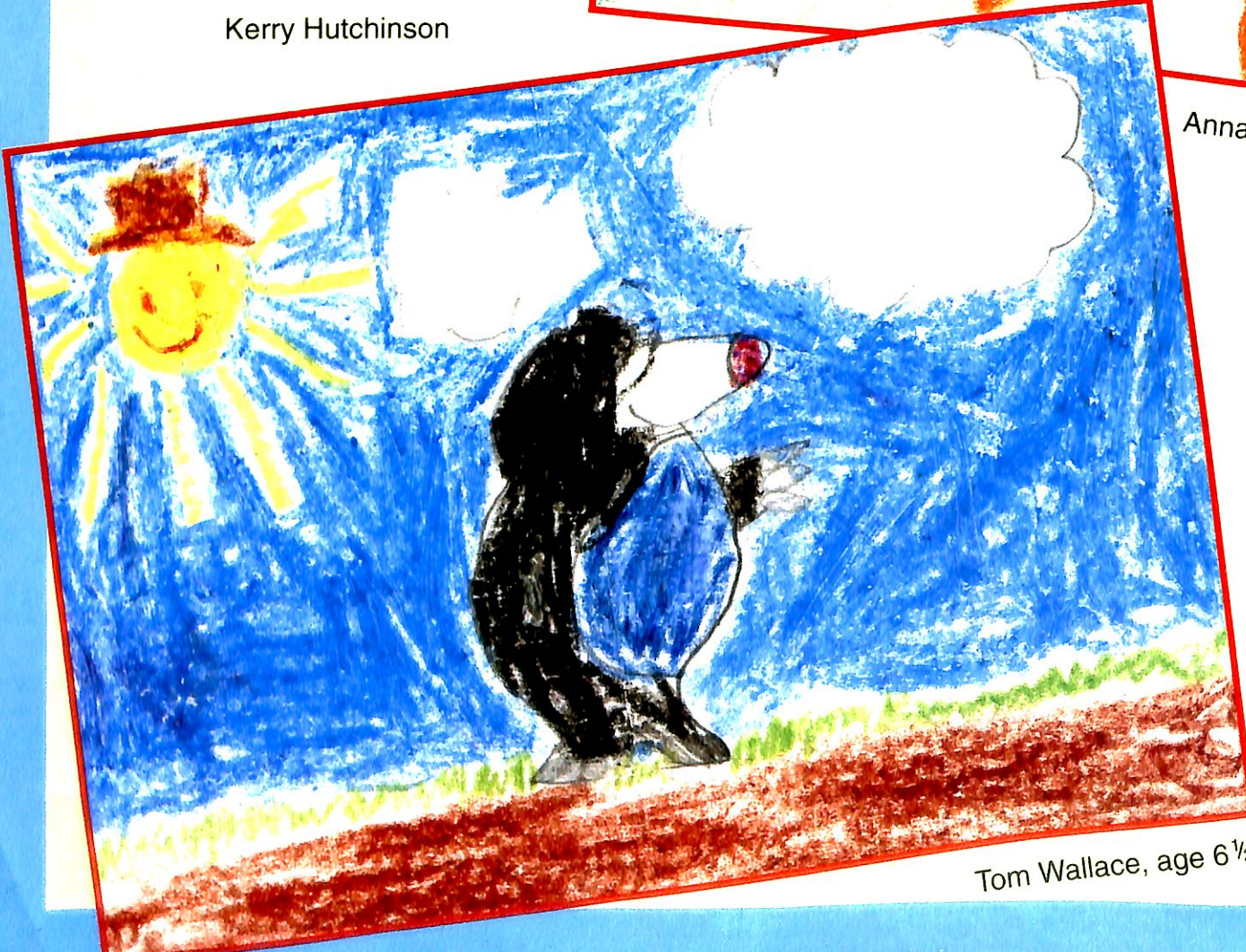
Picture FARTHING WOOD Gallery



Kerry Hutchinson



Anna Mendonca



Tom Wallace, age 6½



Sam Reed, age 4

Why did the
Hedgehog wear
red boots?
Because his brown
ones were at the
menders.

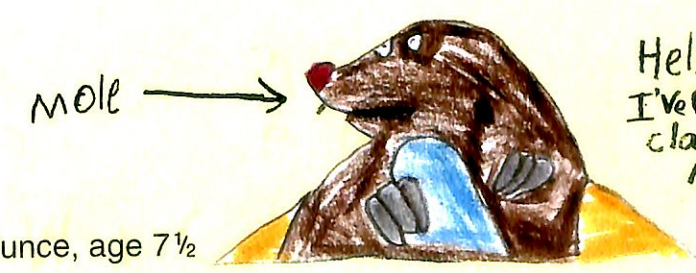
Lucy Pilkington, age 10



Rebecca Morgan,
age 4

Kestrel birds are cute.
Kestrel bird was kind to the Newts.
Kestrel bird is sweet.
Kestrel bird eats meat.

Rachel Seymour



David Bunce, age 7½

Hello I'm mole
I've got two strong
claws, I am a
miner!!!

FROGS

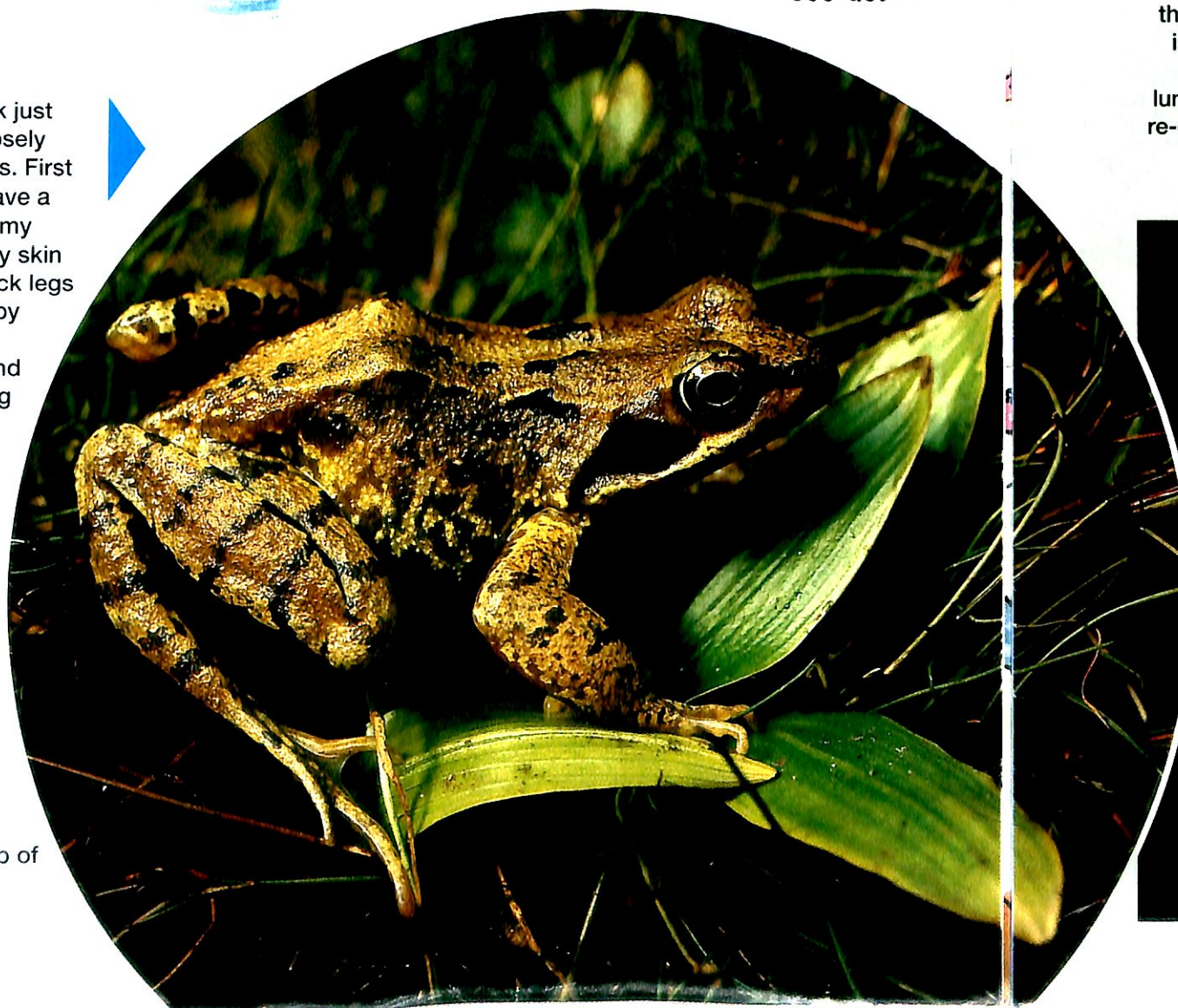


“Hi! I’m Frog. Common frog, to be precise, but sadly I’m not all that common in Britain and Ireland any more because there aren’t as many suitable places for me to live in as there used to be. You see, I like damp, grassy spots near clean water. We Common frogs can be various colours – greenish grey, golden brown or even yellowish. We have darker speckles on our bodies and dark streaks on our legs. Our bellies are pale which helps us when we’re swimming because fish that may be lurking underneath find it difficult to see us.”

You might think that we look just like Toad, but if you look closely you’ll see several differences. First of all, I’m a little smaller. I have a dark patch behind my ears, my nose is more pointed and my skin is smooth and moist. My back legs are longer, too, and I move by hopping. I take short hops when I’m hunting for food and long ones when I’m escaping from an enemy.

I spend the day hiding in tall grasses and other plants. I come out at night to hunt. Toad and I like similar habitats, though Toad can live in drier places than me as he has a more waterproof skin.

We like the same kinds of foods – slugs, snails, caterpillars and other little creatures. We eat the same way, too, catching food on our sticky tongues and pushing it down with the help of our eyeballs.

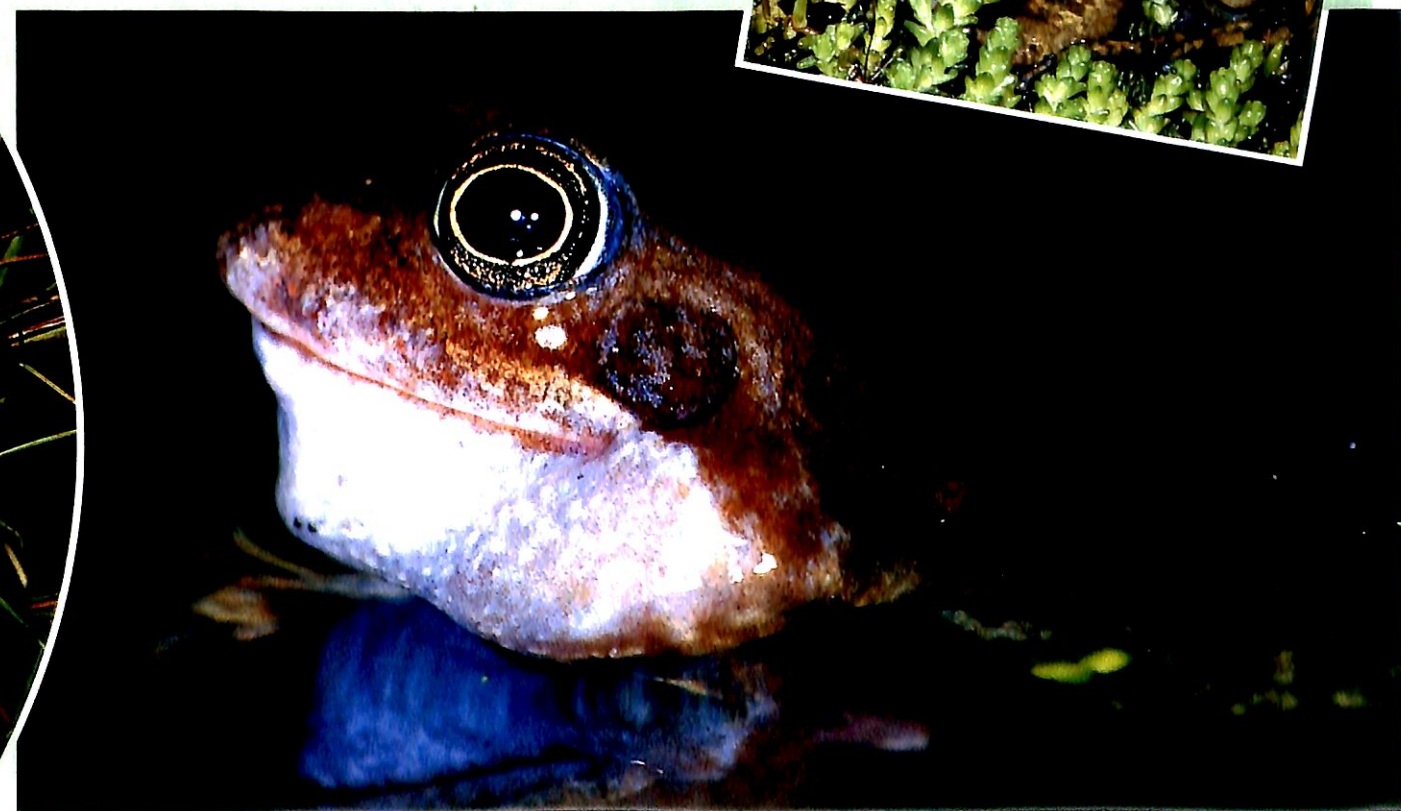


We frogs do not drink with our mouths – we simply absorb moisture through our skin. When you see a frog sitting in a puddle, it’s probably having a drink!

When we male frogs hibernate we often choose the mud at the bottom of ponds. We can stay underwater like this for several months because we breathe through our skin. Our females usually hibernate on land.

BREATHING LIKE BELLOWS

I have two ways of breathing: through my nose and mouth, and through my skin – another reason why my skin must not dry out. Have you ever seen a frog with its mouth closed and its throat bulging out and then back, with a steady rhythm? Well, it’s simply breathing. The throat acts like bellows. When it is pushed down, air is sucked in through the nose and is trapped by a valve in the nose. Then the throat is pushed up again and the air is forced down the windpipe to the lungs. As the frog’s throat pumps up and down, the air is passed from the lungs to the mouth and back a few times. Then the valve re-opens and the stale air is forced out through the nose.



All About...

Frogs in gardens

“People living in the country often used to see frogs but now you’re more likely to come across them if you live in towns. This is because many farmland ponds and ditches have been drained or allowed to silt up. Others have become polluted with fertilizers, pesticides and silage. In some areas, garden ponds have saved frogs and toads from becoming extinct. People with gardens can really help to rescue frogs AND the frogs help them, too, by eating many of the pests, such as slugs and snails, that nibble their plants.”



In early spring, frogs lay thousands of eggs in shallow water. Each female lays between 1500 and 3000 and the protective jelly swells out in the water.

When the brownish, wriggly tadpole frees itself from the jelly it breathes through feathery gills on the side of the body. Gradually it develops its lungs, legs and arms.

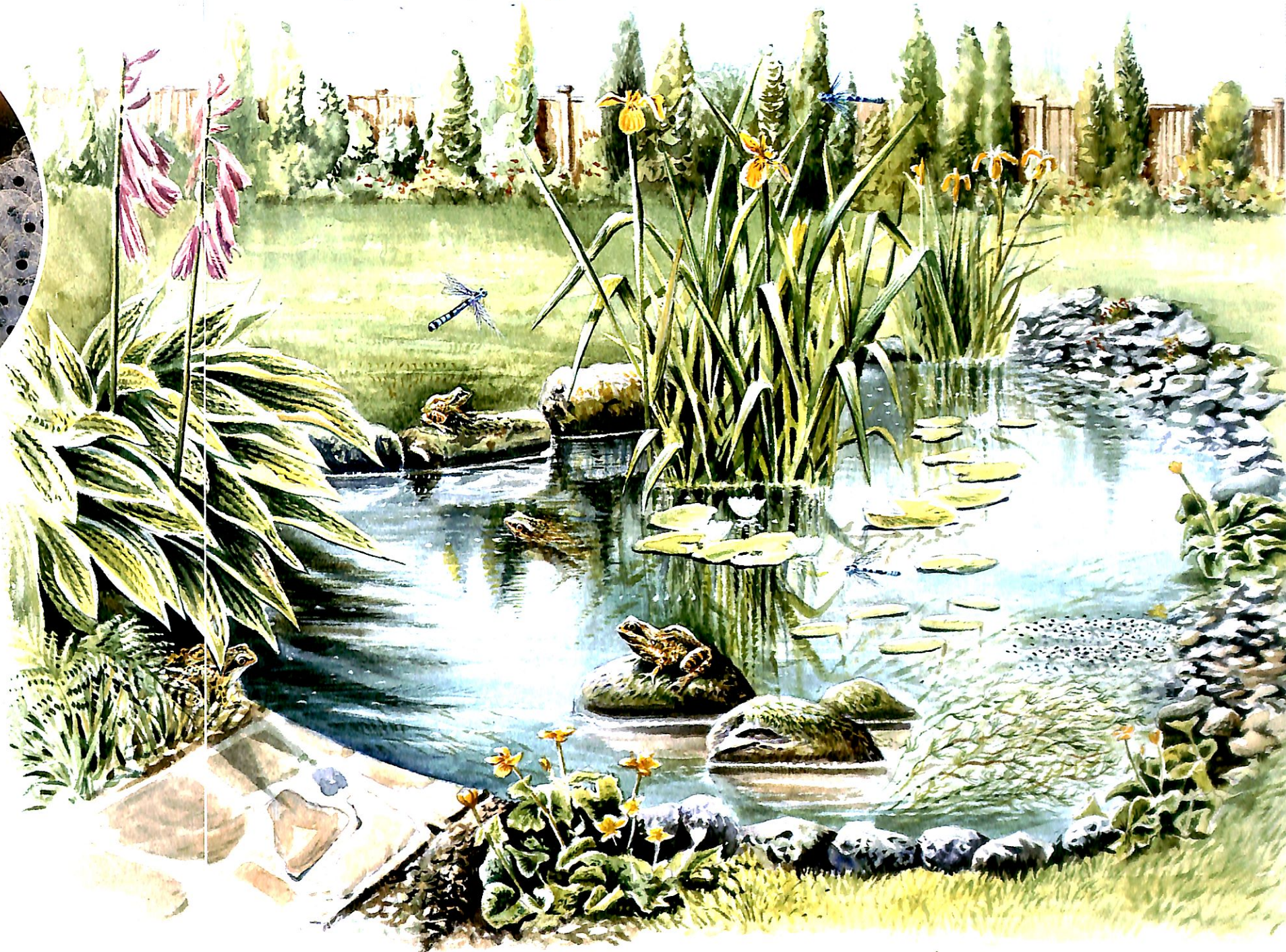
It feeds on tiny plants to start with and then small animals. By the time it is 12 weeks old it is almost a fully formed frog – its stumpy tail is soon absorbed back into its body – and it is ready to explore dry land.

GARDEN POND TIPS

There are some things you can do that will give frogs the best chance of spawning successfully and of a good number of the spawn surviving to become adults. If you don’t have a garden you could help someone else build a pond, or see if you could start one at school.

You could also get in touch with WATCH at Wytham Park, Waterside South, Lincoln LN5 7JR, who can give you more information about caring for frogs and tell you where your nearest Wildlife Trust is – they may well need help with restoring a pond in your area.

Even quite small ponds can attract frogs but one about 3m by 4m is ideal.



DO include shallow edges, about 7-10cm deep, where the females can lay their eggs. But make sure there are some deeper parts, about 60cm, which will not freeze solid during very cold winters.

DO put the pond in a sunny spot, that’s not shaded by a tree – tadpoles grow faster in warm water.

DO have rocks for the young frogs to climb on to.

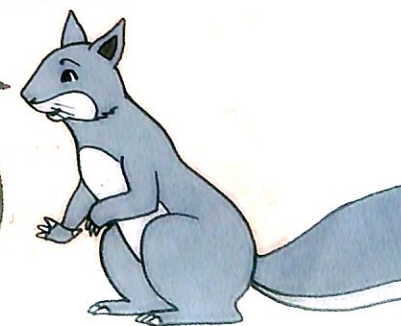
DO put in some pond plants that will add oxygen to the water. You can buy these in Garden Centres. Grow some plants, like irises, at the edge which will attract insects that the frogs can eat.

DO grow long grasses or other plants nearby so the frogs can hide during the day. The best kind of frog pond is one with no fish at all (they eat tadpoles).

DO keep your lawn short – that way, the young frogs won’t try to hide in it and so won’t get squashed in your lawn-mower.

DO get a clump of spawn from a friend who has some to spare. DON’T take it from a pond or ditch in the country, and once your frogs start laying, DON’T put any of yours into the countryside either – you could spread diseases or unwanted waterplants.

Squirrel says,
If there are young children about cover your pond with large mesh chicken wire for safety.



Weasel’s Easel
The frog’s biggest muscles are in its back legs. A Common frog can leap 60cm – that’s about seven times its own length.



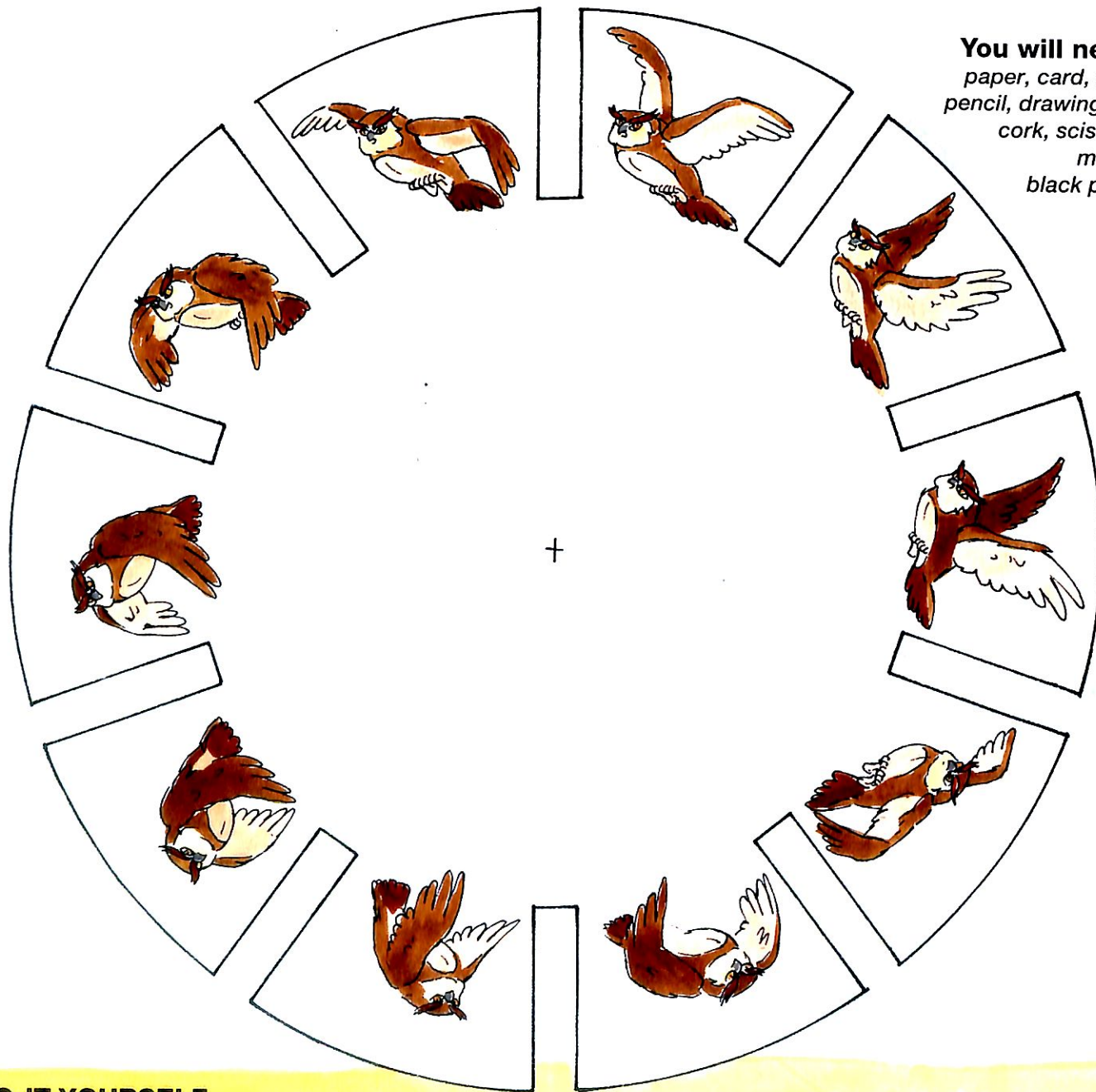
Moving parts 4

This is the last part in the series on moving parts. To round off we show you how to make a very sophisticated animation machine!

MAKE A PHENAKISTOSCOPE

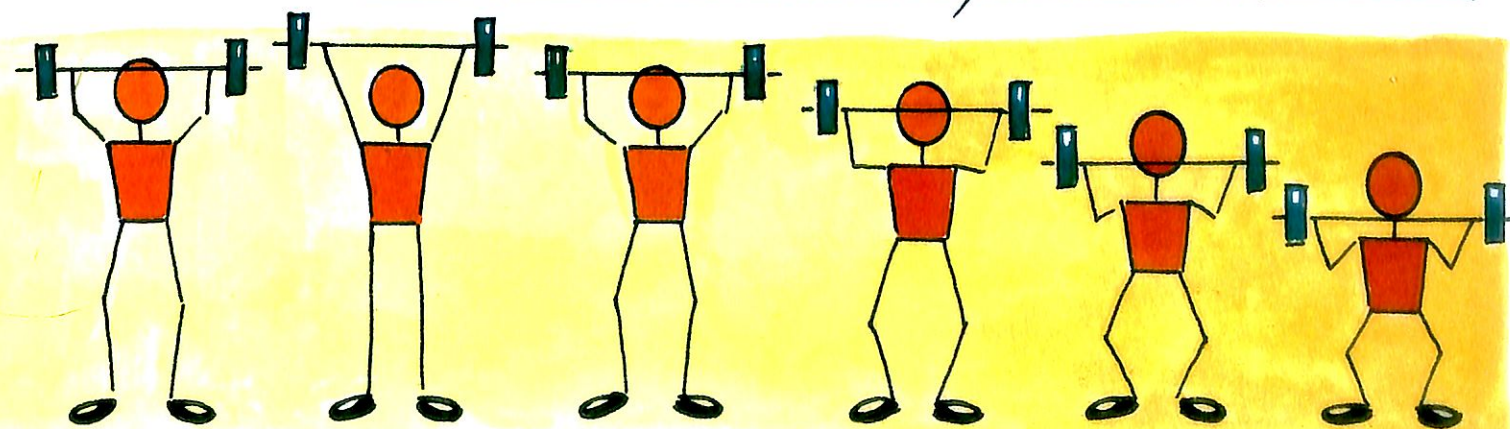
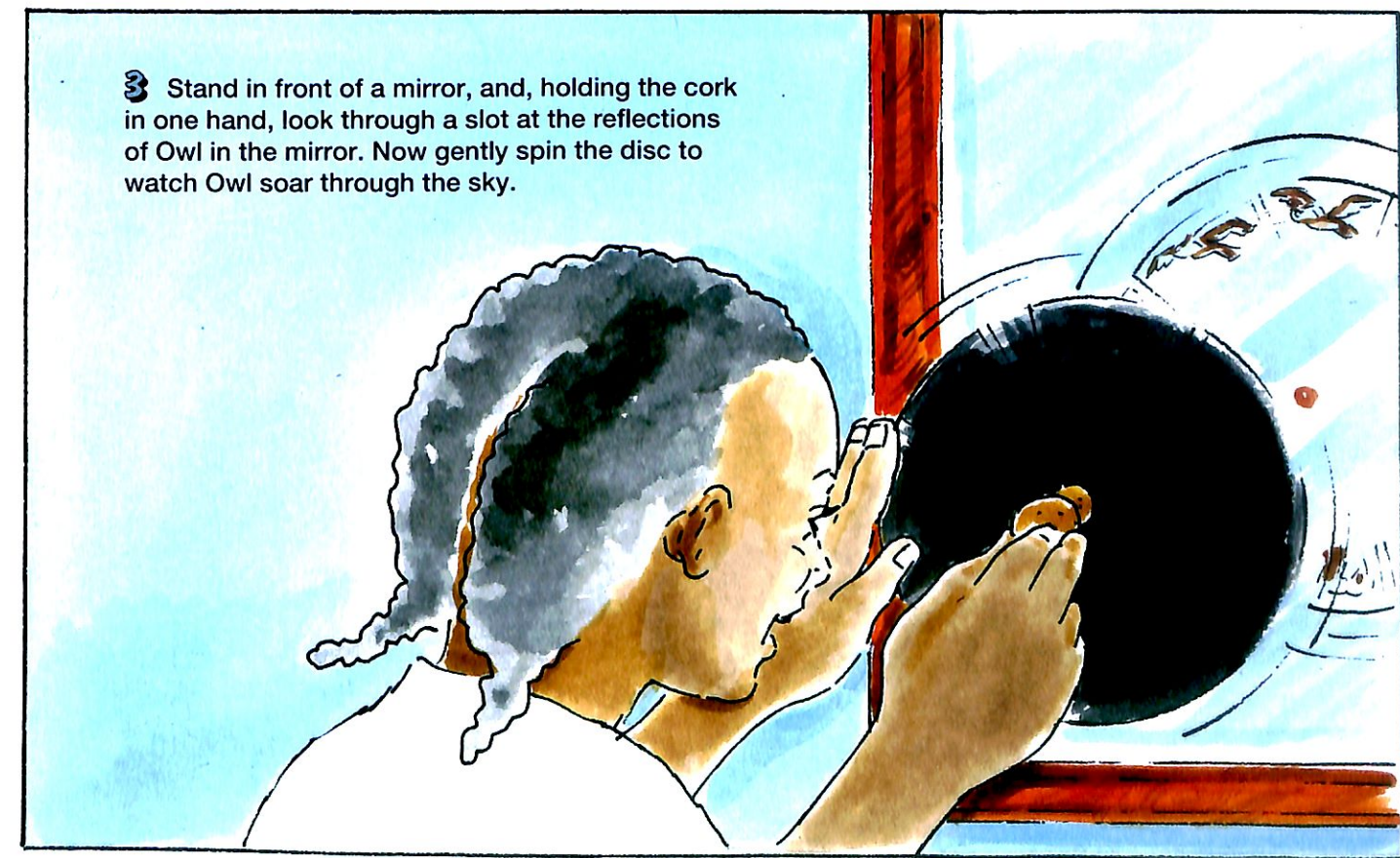
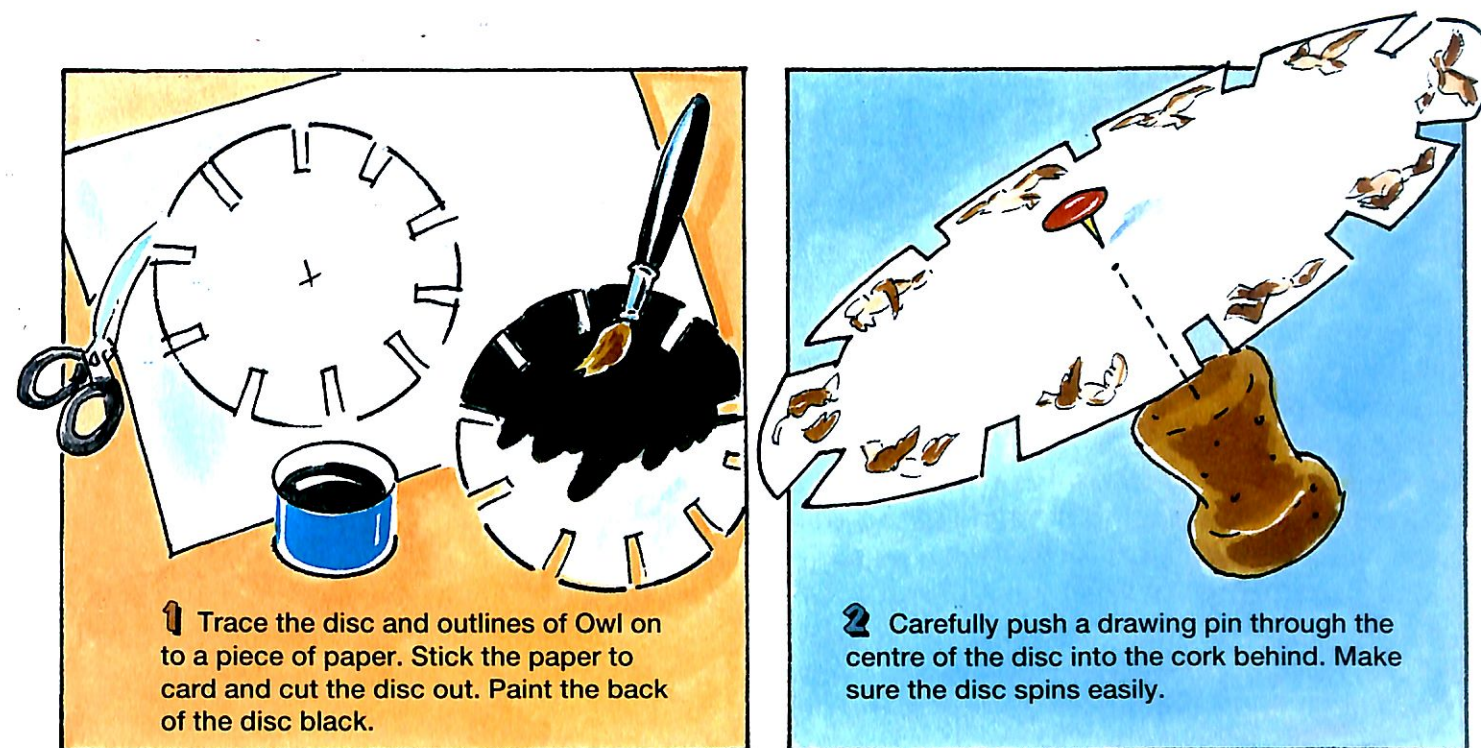
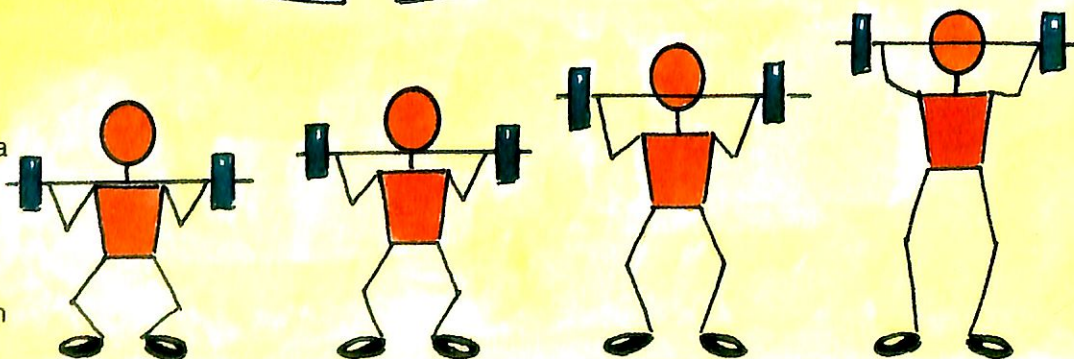
The Phenakistoscope was invented in 1832. When you spin it the drawings seem to move like a cartoon sequence.

You will need:
paper, card, glue,
pencil, drawing pin,
cork, scissors,
mirror, black paint.



DO-IT-YOURSELF

You can make more Phenakistoscope discs with your own designs round the edges, such as a ball bouncing, a ballerina dancing or Mole jumping up and down. Just remember that in each of the ten drawings the action must change slightly.



Secret World of..



AN ANTHILL

"I'm a bit of an expert hill maker myself – molehills being my speciality. On my underground travels I sometimes come across another type of hill made by ants. Anthills are much firmer than mine and are usually covered in grass and plants.

Yellow meadow ants build the best anthills. You'll find their lumpy mounds in meadows and chalk downs. Usually one side of the hill is more sloping than the other. The flat side faces south east so it collects all the morning sunlight.

Inside the anthill it's like a miniature city full of comings and goings. Ants of all sizes are busy in all parts of the nest. The hill has many rooms where eggs and ant larvae are kept. You'll even find other small animals in the nest, too."

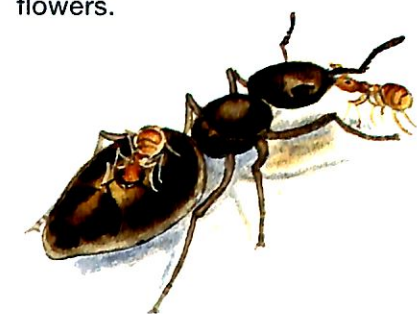
Mole's Challenge: my eyesight's not too good so can you help me count how many yellow worker ants there are in the picture?





It's a tricky task but if you stick at it you'll find about 44 yellow ants in the picture. Don't forget the ants on the plants.

Horseshoe vetch often grows near anthills. It is what the Chalkhill blue caterpillar feeds on. Green stems and leaves trail low over the hill but from May to August they turn upwards to produce golden flowers.

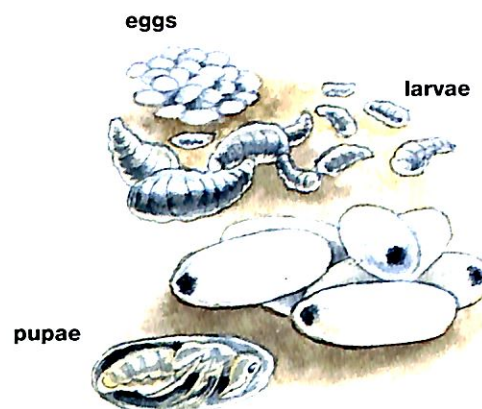


The queen is the biggest ant and needs to be, too, because she lays all the eggs that eventually become ants. She only mates once and spends the rest of her life laying eggs.

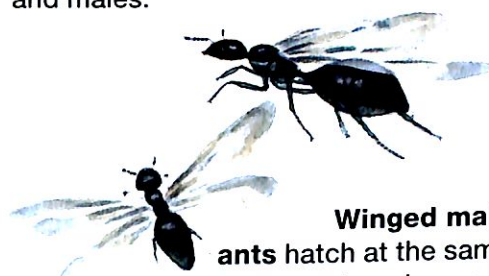
In late summer more queens may hatch in the nest but these grow wings and fly off to start a new nest.



Chalkhill blue butterfly caterpillars are often found on plants on or near anthills. The ants lick them to get a sweet liquid. Workers bring up the liquid to feed the larvae.



Eggs, larvae and pupae are looked after by worker ants. When the eggs hatch into larvae the workers feed them until they become pupae. The pupae then turn into adult ants. Most turn into workers but some become queens and males.



Winged male ants hatch at the same time as winged queens but they are smaller. When conditions are perfect all the flying ants from many anthills fly off at the same time to breed. After mating the males die.

Rabbits quite often use anthills as look-out posts and also sprinkle them with droppings to mark the boundaries of rabbit territories. The droppings add goodness to the soil and help plants to grow roots deep into the hill.

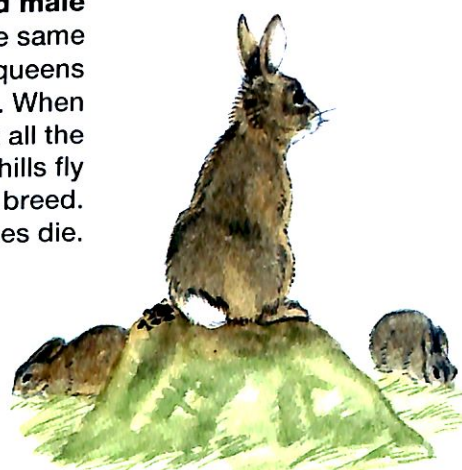


Aphids feed on plant roots while the worker ants milk them for a sticky liquid called honeydew. Any dead aphids are fed to the brood of ant larvae.

Workers dash about the nest in their thousands. They are tiny, wingless ants which can't breed, but they're full of energy. They have to be since there is a lot of work to do in an anthill, like collecting mites and beetle grubs to feed to the ant larvae.



A small, white Woodlouse is a guest which ants don't mind having around. While it feeds on scraps of food the ants lick sweet substances off its body.



ANT ANTICS

Phew! It must be hard work being a worker ant. They never seem to stop moving – carrying food and nest-building materials back and forth, to and fro'. They're strong, too – some can carry ten times their own body weight!

BODY BITS

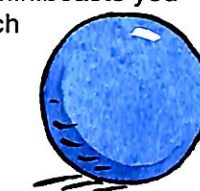
Like all insects, ants have three body parts – a head, thorax and abdomen. All insects have six legs which are attached to the thorax. Any minibeasts you come across with eight legs, such as spiders, are not insects.

You will need:

Plasticine, USED matchsticks or toothpicks, cloves, dice.

The object of the game is to be the first player to make an ant out of Plasticine and matchsticks. You do this by throwing the dice. Each number on the dice matches a part of the ant.

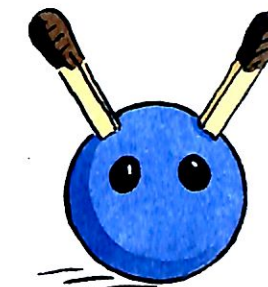
The scores have to be thrown in the following order to make your ant. If you don't throw the right number, it is the next player's turn to throw the dice.



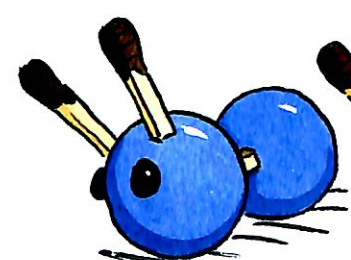
1 = head: roll a ball out of Plasticine.



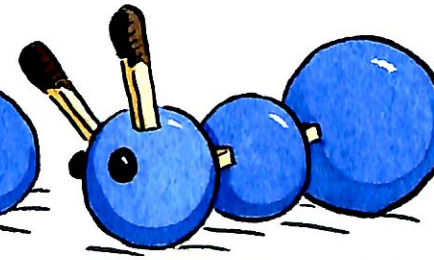
2 = eyes: stick two cloves on head.



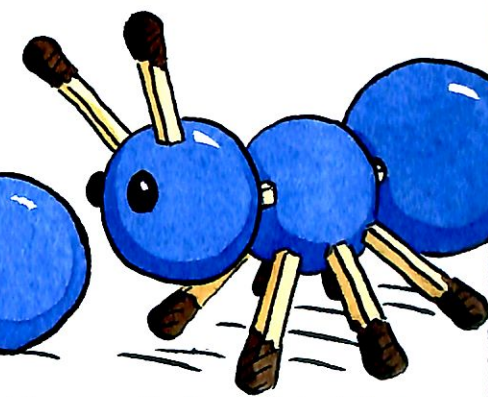
3 = antennae: stick two matchsticks on head.



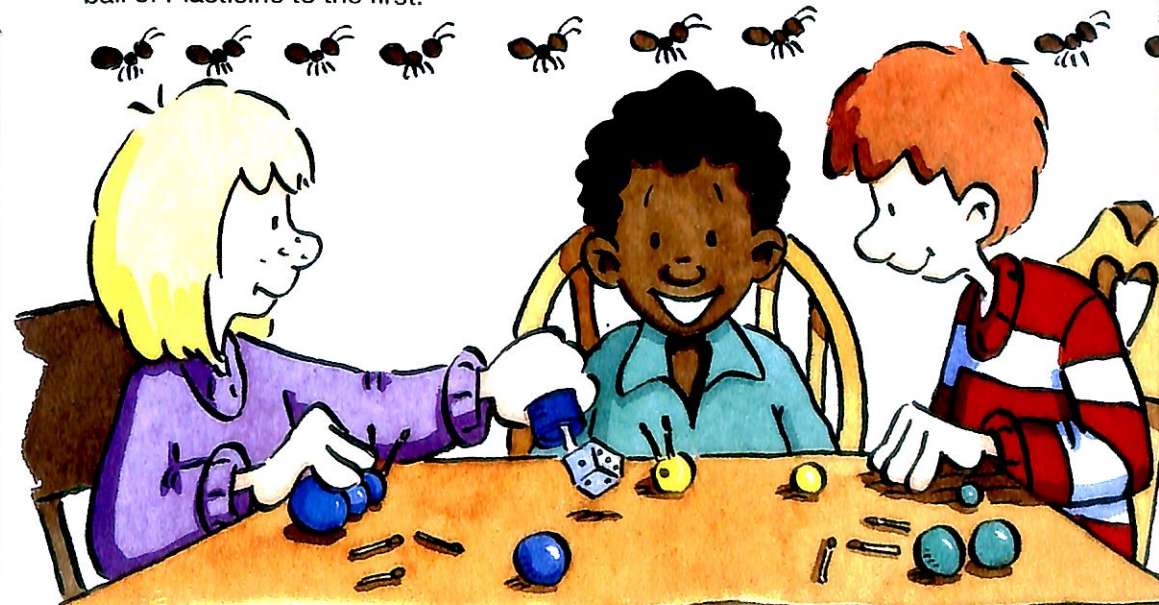
4 = thorax: stick a second ball of Plasticine to the first.



5 = abdomen: add a third ball to the body.



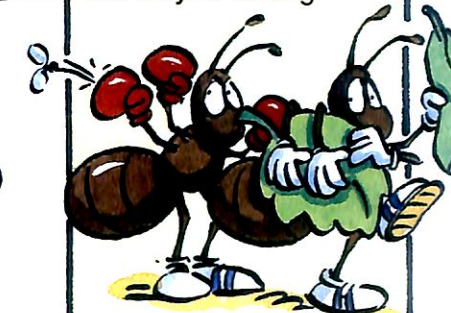
6 = legs: stick six legs into the body.



KISS-ME-QUICK



Forager ants pass food into worker ants' mouths. They stand on their hind legs and look like they're kissing!



BODYGUARDS

While leaf-cutter ants carry bits of leaf to the nest, they can't defend themselves. They go with larger, soldier ants who fight off enemies.



SWEET ENDINGS

Honey pot ants are considered tasty in Australia and Mexico. Some have so much nectar in them they swell to the size of a grape!



MILKING TIME

Ants like the sweet honeydew made by greenfly, which they 'milk' by stroking them.

What did Pink Panther say when he trod on an ant?
Dead-ant, dead-ant, dead-ant, dead-ant, dead-ant, dead-ant!



MAKE AN ANT COLONY

Ants are fascinating to watch. You can keep ants for a week or two in an ant colony – known as a formicarium!

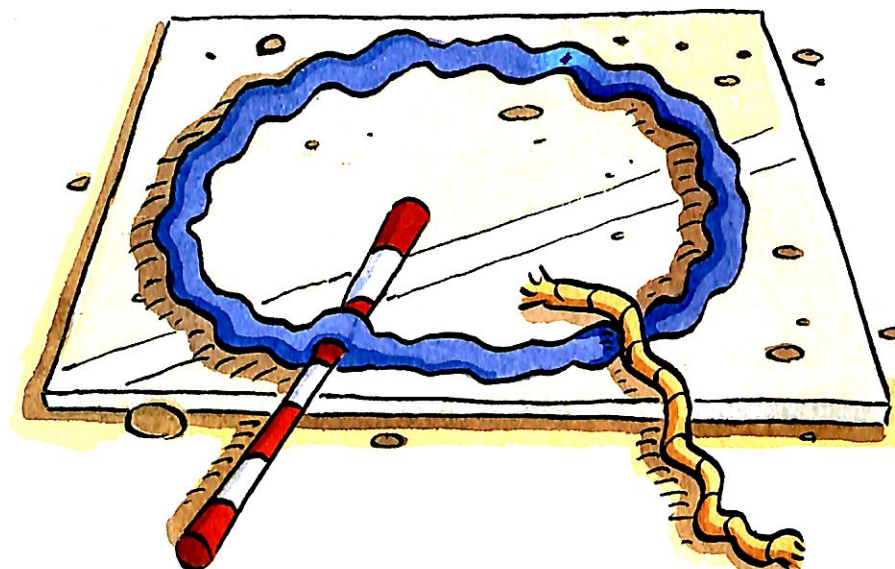
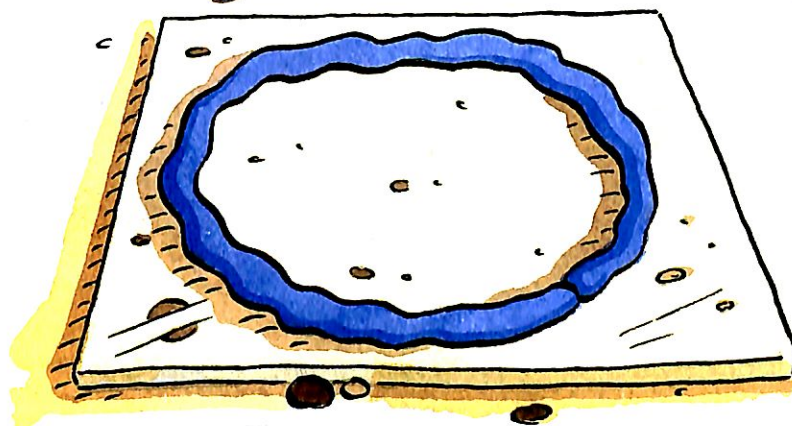
You will need:

two pieces of glass about 30cm square, Plasticine, plastic drinking straw, earth, saucers, small margarine tub, stocking, elastic band, water, honey.



Squirrel says
Wear gloves when carrying panes of glass as the edges can be quite sharp.

1 In a shady corner of your garden, place a sheet of glass on the ground. Roll out a sausage of Plasticine, curve it into a big circle and press it on to the glass.



2 Push the drinking straw through the Plasticine and press the length of string across the Plasticine.



Be a Nature Detective

IT'S MAGIC!

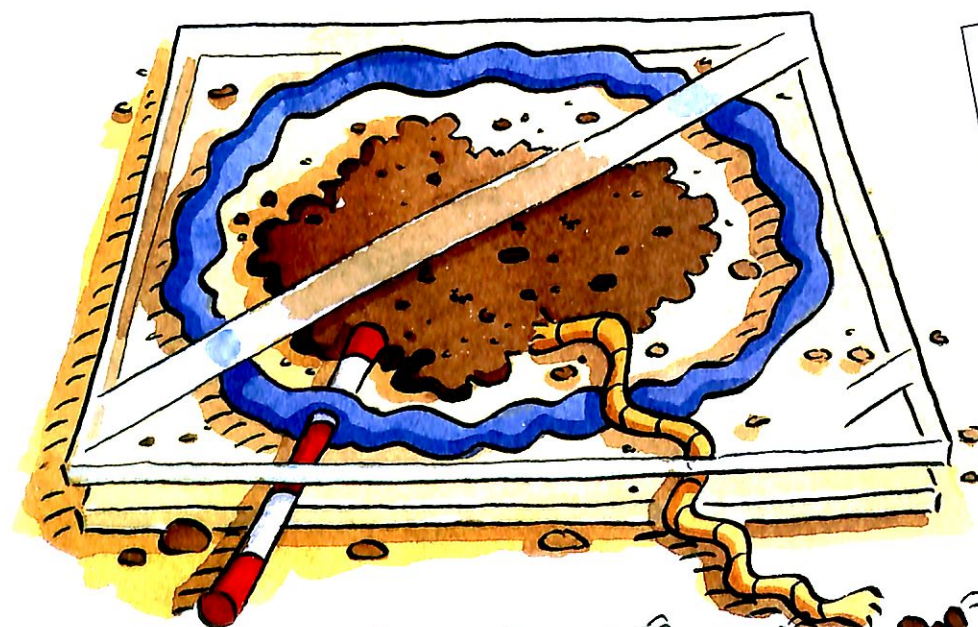
Wood ants squirt formic acid from their abdomens to defend themselves. If you come across a wood ants' nest try putting a bluebell in among the ants for a minute. As the ants get agitated they squirt formic acid on the bluebell, turning it pink!



Squirrel says
Remember some ants can sting.

FINDING ANTS

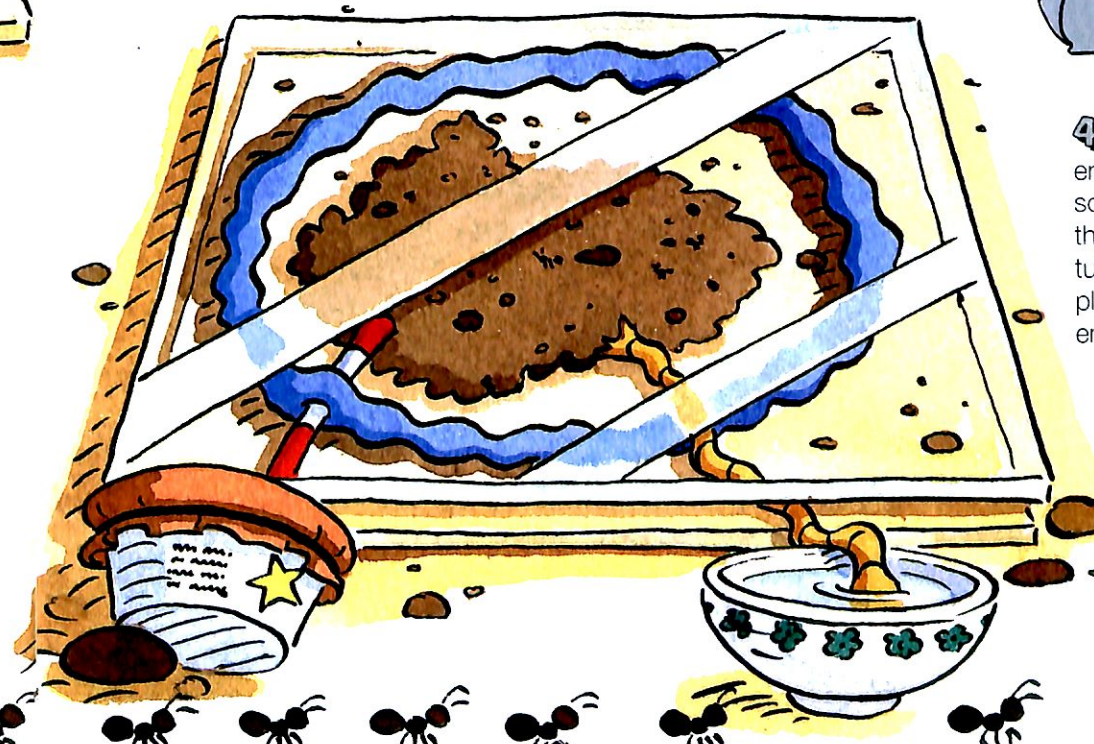
Look under large stones and along garden paths to find some ants. You can collect them by gently nudging them into a bottle with a paintbrush.



Weasel's Easel
In Africa, Driver ants march in such large groups they can even attack and kill snakes.



3 Shovel some earth and ants into the centre of the circle, then quickly put the second piece of glass on top, pressing down firmly. Be careful not to squash the ants.



4 Fill a saucer with water and dip the end of the string into it like a wick. Put some honey in a margarine tub. Rest the tub on a stone to tilt it. Cover the tub with a piece of stocking – keep it in place with the elastic band. Push the end of the straw into the tub.

ANT WATCH

Now stand back and watch!

You should find that the ants suck the water up the string, and use the straw as a tunnel to get to the honey.

Instead of honey, try putting other foods in the margarine tub such as sugar, breadcrumbs and dead insects. Which food do they like best?

Look for ants playing different roles in the colony. Which ones look for food? Which ones guard the colony? Can you see a queen ant?

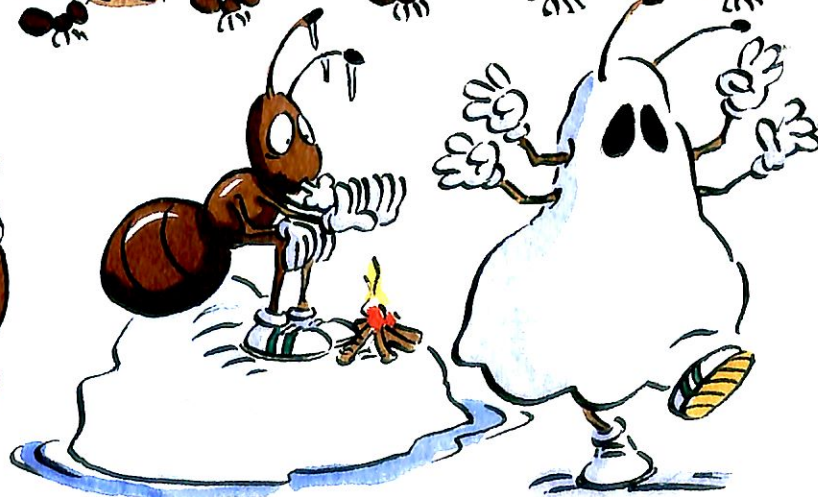
After you've finished looking at the ants, release them where you found them.

DOODLE BUGS

For this game all you need is a pencil and a piece of paper. Think up as many words as you can with the letters 'ant' in them and try to draw a picture to match the word. For example:



ANTIQUE



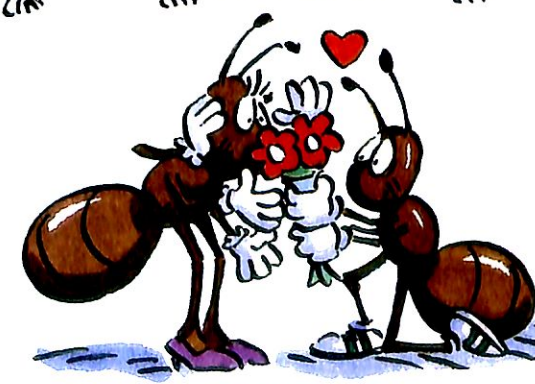
ANTARCTIC



PHANTOM



PANT



ROMANTIC

SMELL

Most animals have a far better sense of smell than humans. Noses are very useful for sniffing out food and they are a superb early warning system when danger is about. Animals also use aromas to find a mate or mark their territory.



◀ STIFF UPPER LIP

When a male Stone's sheep makes a face like this it means there is a female ready to breed somewhere nearby. Like the males of many other mammals, a Stone's sheep ram curls his top lip to get a more powerful whiff of female fragrance.

Q: How does Badger mark his territory?

A: With lavatory pits or latrines.

◀ SNOUT IN ACTION

When Farm dog got a whiff of Fox and the other animals he put his sensitive snout to the ground and went looking for them. Humans have put dogs and their snouts to good use. Sniffer dogs are trained to search for drugs and bombs while Bloodhounds have been used to track down escaped prisoners.



▲ SAY AAAAARGH!

If you hold your nose while you swallow your medicine it doesn't seem to taste so bad. It's amazing how your sense of smell affects your taste buds. Try eating a segment of orange and sniffing a lemon at the same time.



That darned Fox must be somewhere around here.

It's Amazing!

SCENT OF LOVE

Female Emperor moths make a sort of smelly love potion which attracts males from miles around. The male Emperor (left) picks up the scent with his large aerial-like feelers and follows the trail to the female moth.



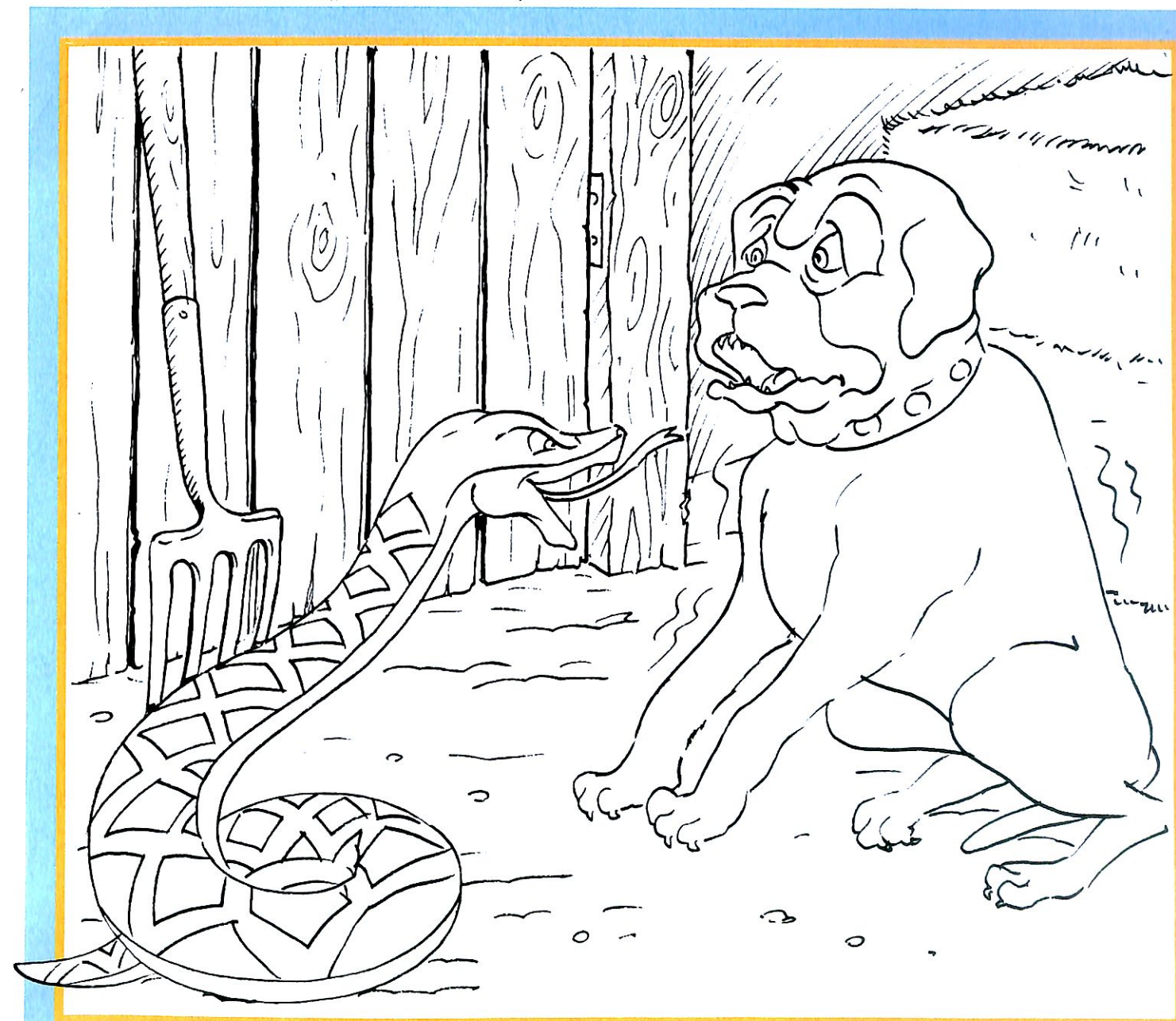
◀ ODOUR EATER

At night, in the dark forests of New Zealand, the Kiwi shuffles along probing in the earth and dead leaves with its long, curved bill. Kiwis have nostrils on the end of their bill so they can sniff out worms, grubs and fruit.

1st man: My dog's got no nose.
2nd man: How does it smell?
1st man: Terrible.

Colour it in

HELLO SSSTRANGER



DON'T

FORGET

TO SEND

JOAN

YOUR PICTURES

POEMS

AND

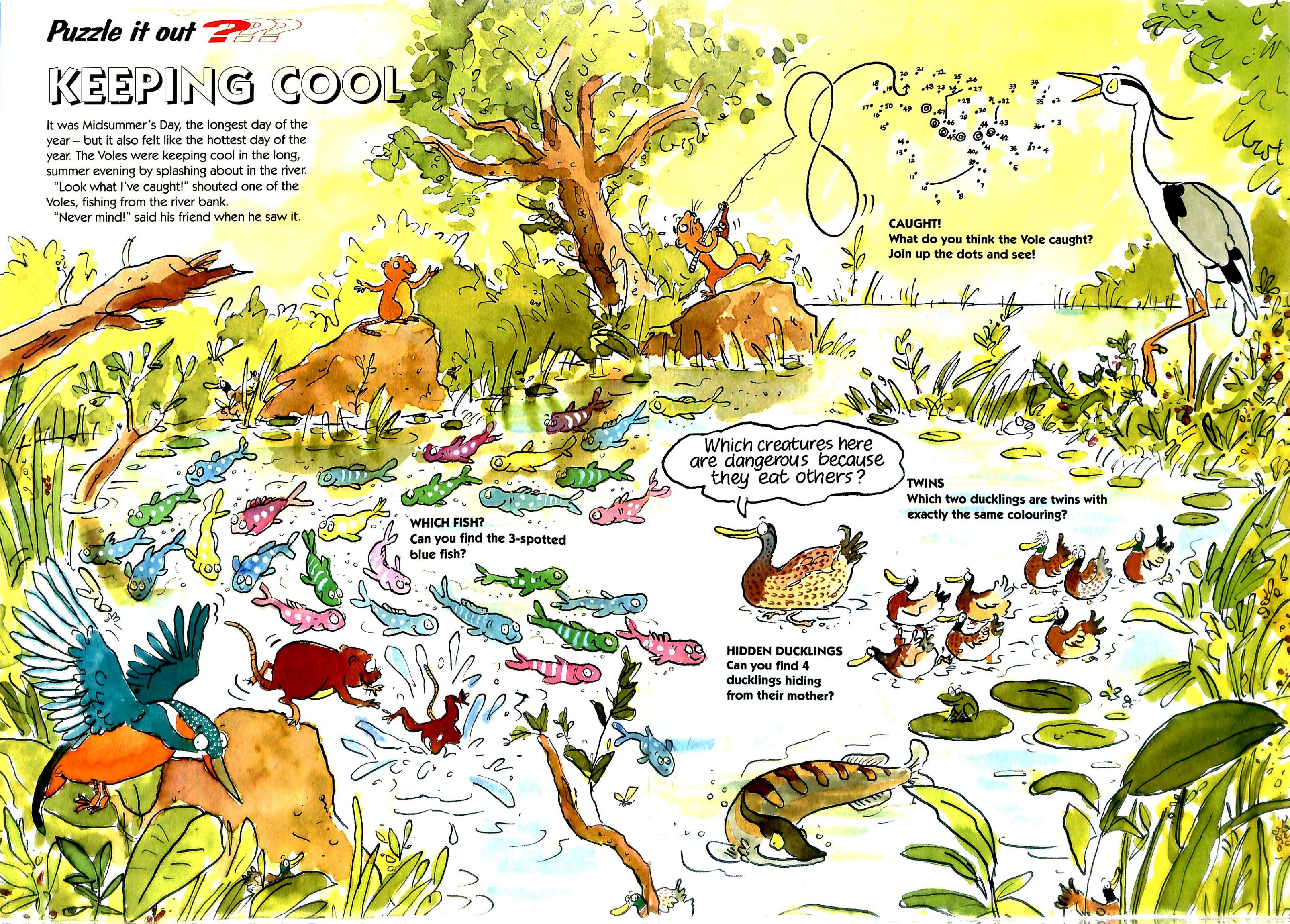
JOKES!

KEEPING COOL

It was Midsummer's Day, the longest day of the year – but it also felt like the hottest day of the year. The Voles were keeping cool in the long, summer evening by splashing about in the river.

"Look what I've caught!" shouted one of the Voles, fishing from the river bank.

"Never mind!" said his friend when he saw it.



CAUGHT!
What do you think the Vole caught?
Join up the dots and see!

Which creatures here
are dangerous because
they eat others?

WHICH FISH?
Can you find the 3-spotted
blue fish?

TWINS
Which two ducklings are twins with
exactly the same colouring?

HIDDEN DUCKLINGS
Can you find 4
ducklings hiding
from their mother?

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